UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/353
22 January 1992

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
Eighth session
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
8 February 1992
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, in accordance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, hereby transmits the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The annotations thereto have been prepared by the secretariat in accordance with the usual practice.

With regard to organizational questions, a note was circulated at the seventeenth special session of the Trade and Development Board, providing relevant information and suggestions (TD/B(S-XVII)/CRP.2).

GE.92-50253

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT 1/

1. Opening of the Conference

2. Election of the President

3. Establishment of sessional bodies

4. Election of Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur

5. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the Credentials Committee
   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee

6. Adoption of the agenda

7. General debate

8. Strengthening national and international action and multilateral co-operation for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy.

   Evaluation of challenges and potentials presented by long-term structural changes for sustainable development and expansion of international trade in an interdependent world economy. Promoting economic growth, technological capabilities and accelerated development in the developing countries: adoption of sound national and international policies and measures, good management and structural reforms in both developed and developing countries to achieve the effective and efficient allocation, use and mobilization of human and economic resources and a more favourable international economic environment. Towards this end, issues in the following interrelated areas would be addressed: resources for development; international trade; technology; services; commodities.

9. Other business

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

1/ At its 780th plenary meeting on 12 October 1990, the Trade and Development Board approved the text of the substantive item on the agenda (item 8) and, at its 781st plenary meeting, authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to complete the provisional agenda with the customary procedural and administrative items. The provisional agenda, appropriately completed, was circulated and approved at the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 27 November 1990, and subsequently issued in TD/B/INF.181.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the Conference

The 221st (opening) plenary meeting of the eighth session of the Conference will be held on Saturday, 8 February 1992, at the Convention Centre, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

Rule 16 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (TD/63/Rev.2) states that "At the opening of each session of the Conference, the head of that delegation from which the President of the previous session was elected shall preside until the Conference has elected a President for the session".

The inaugural ceremony will also be held on Saturday, 8 February 1992, at the Convention Centre, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. Particulars of the ceremony will be communicated at a later date.

Item 2: Election of the President

It is customary for the head of delegation of the host country to be elected as President of the Conference.

Item 3: Establishment of sessional bodies

In approving the substantive item of the provisional agenda for the Conference (780th plenary meeting on 12 October 1990), the Trade and Development Board noted the related understanding reached in informal consultations that, in addition to the plenary, there would be only one sessional committee and that there would not be more than three simultaneous official meetings.

At the first part of its seventeenth special session, in December 1991, the Board noted organizational arrangements for the Conference whereby the Conference would establish a main committee, open to the participation of all members of the Conference, to consider and report on the matters referred to it by plenary.

Under rule 65 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the main committee is to elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. Under rule 17, the Chairman of the main committee is to be elected before the Vice-Presidents of the Conference and, under rule 22, shall be a member of the Bureau of the Conference.

Under rule 63, the main Committee could set up such sub-groups as may be required, to consider and report to it on the issues referred to them.

Item 4: Election of Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur

In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Conference will consist of 35 members, comprising the President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference, the Chairman of the main committee and the Rapporteur of the Conference. The Conference would need, therefore, to elect 32 Vice-Presidents.

The Conference may wish to decide that the composition of its Bureau should be based on the same geographical distribution as that of the Bureau at its seventh session, i.e. 7 members from Africa, 7 from Asia, 7 from Latin America, 9 from Group B, 4 from Group D and China.

Item 5: Credentials of representatives to the Conference

As noted by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its seventeenth special session in December 1991 (in TD/B(S-XVII)/CRP.2, para. 10), the Credentials Committee would be composed of the same nine States as were appointed by the General Assembly to serve on the Credentials Committee at its most recent (forty-sixth) session, i.e. Belgium (Chairman); Belize; Chile; China; Lesotho; Russian Federation; Singapore; Togo; United States of America.

The Board also noted (ibid., para. 11) that, should any of the above States not be represented at the Conference, the regional group concerned would be requested to nominate a replacement.

Item 6: Adoption of the agenda

The Board, at the first part of its thirty-seventh session, approved the text of the substantive agenda item and authorized the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to complete the provisional agenda with the customary procedural and administrative items. The Conference is invited to adopt the provisional agenda set forth in section I above.

Organization of work

Arrangements for the organization of the work of the Conference will be circulated in an addendum to the present document.

Item 7: General debate

The general debate would be opened on Monday, 10 February 1992, and would continue until the list of speakers is exhausted, possibly until Friday, 21 February.

In accordance with rule 39 of the rules of procedure and with guidelines approved by the General Assembly, the Conference could decide on a time-limit for interventions by representatives of States and for statements by other participants to be observed during the general debate.

The secretariat will reproduce texts of statements made in the general debate in the versions provided.

Item 8: Strengthening national and international action and multilateral co-operation for a healthy, secure and equitable world economy

Evaluation of challenges and potentials presented by long-term structural changes for sustainable development and expansion of international trade in an interdependent world economy. Promoting economic growth, technological capabilities and accelerated development in the developing countries: adoption of sound national and international policies and measures, good management and structural reforms in both developed and developing countries to achieve the effective and efficient allocation, use and mobilization of human and economic resources and a more favourable international economic environment. Towards this end, issues in the following interrelated areas would be addressed: resources for development; international trade; technology; services; commodities.

The report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to the eighth session of the Conference is entitled "Accelerating the development process: challenges for national and international policies in the 1990s" (TD/354/Rev.1). 2/

The following other documents are available at the time of preparation of this note:

- Trade, development and the new international challenges: towards a programme of action for strenghtened multilateral co-operation and sustainable development - elements of a contribution to UNCTAD VIII: Communication received from the Permanent Mission of Italy on behalf of the States members of Group B (TD/355)

- Tehran Final Documents (TD/356)

- Basic considerations on issues on the agenda of UNCTAD VIII: Position paper submitted by China (TD/357)

- Nordic contribution to the discussion on the revitalization of UNCTAD (TD/B(S-XVII)/CRP.1)

- Australia's approach to instititional issues and the role of UNCTAD (TD/B(S-XVII)/CRP.3)

2/ In addition a document providing analytical background on some of the issues dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General (Analytical report by the UNCTAD secretariat to the Conference (TD/358)) will be circulated in available languages.

At the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 25 July 1991 it was agreed that the intergovernmental preparatory process to be conducted by the Board at its seventeenth special session would draw up a negotiated text, possibly including a number of square-bracketed passages, on which the Conference itself would focus. The outcome of the Board's deliberations would be made available to the Conference.

Item 9: Other business

Item 9 (a): Periodic review by the Conference of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

Paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, states that the Conference shall review periodically the lists of States contained in the annex to that resolution in the light of changes in the membership of the Conference and other factors.

Item 9 (b): Report of the Trade and Development Board to the Conference

In accordance with a proposal noted by the Board at its seventeenth special session, the reports of the Board to the General Assembly on the first and second parts of its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth, thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh regular sessions and the first part of its thirty-eighth regular session, as well as its sixteenth and seventeenth special session, would be deemed to constitute the report of the Board to the Conference at its eighth session, in accordance with section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX).

The Board may wish to take note of the Board's report, as so constituted.

Item 9 (c): Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 80 of the rules of procedure

The Conference will be invited to consider any applications from intergovernmental bodies for designation for the purposes of paragraphs 18 and 19 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX).

Item 9 (d): Review of the calendar of meetings

The Conference may wish to review the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1992.

Item 10: Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

Under this item, the Conference would report to the General Assembly in accordance with the customary practice (cf. paragraph 27 of TD/B(S-XVII)/CRP.2).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT */

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Micronesia (Federated States of)
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

*/ 171 members as at 31 December 1991.